

Traffic Tips: Proper use of the two way center turn lane

The lane is bordered on either side by two yellow lines - the inner line is broken or dashed, the outer line is solid. Pavement marking arrows may or may not be present. This lane is for the exclusive use of left turning vehicles and may be used by drivers making a left turn in either direction into driveways and minor roads. It should not be used for passing or travel by a driver except to make a left turn. This lane may not be used to pass other vehicles and get to the intersection that is several hundred feet away. The use of this lane is restricted to 200 to 300 feet to decelerate, wait and make your left turns. This lane is provided to remove left-turning vehicles from the through lanes and store those vehicles in the median area until an acceptable gap in opposing traffic is available.

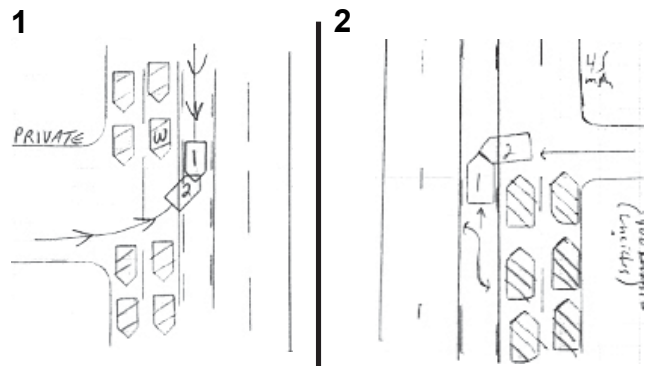


For making left turns at major intersections, wait until you get to the break in pavement lines (end of the solid yellow line) which marks the beginning of the left turn storage lane at the intersection.

Every week drivers in Troy have accidents and problems associated with improper use of the center left turn lane. The most frequent accidents occur when one or more through lanes stop to let a vehicle out of a driveway to make their left turn and during the process

gets hit by a vehicle in the middle lane racing to get to the left turn storage lane at the intersection. These accidents predominantly are broadside crashes, and Police Officers attending to these crashes report that they result in severe injuries. Due to the severity and frequency of this type of accident, the Troy Police Department has been enforcing the improper use of the center lane to educate drivers about the proper use of the center lane, particularly on our major arterials such as Maple, Rochester, Livernois and others.

Please remember, the center lane for left turns was NOT designed as a driving lane, a passing lane, an acceleration lane, or an extension of the left turn lane. If while driving in this lane you drive past a possible turn location, pass another car, or speed up, you have probably used this lane incorrectly. Please drive safely and PAY ATTENTION, to avoid a costly reminder (be it a crash or a ticket and points on your driving record)!!



Collision diagrams from actual accident reports